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British Government vs. American Films

IF, as in England, the British Labor Government considers it in the National interest to restrict the importation, the distribution and the exhibition of American Motion Pictures, thereby, according to its belief, promoting production, distribution and exhibition of British pictures in England, the Government has placed the cart before the horse. Where are the necessary British pictures?

Quota regulations should follow a back-log of, at least, two years of British pictures, but if such pictures have Entertainment Quality, there will be no need for Quota pressure, the public demand will force their exhibition. In the production of a supply of Quota Pictures, which I presume means pictures in which there are not large investments, quantity, not quality is the objective. Is that good?

The British Film Industry appears to be destined to have bad luck. When it finally awakened to the importance of a Motion Picture Industry, and commenced to produce for world markets, it had World War I and production practically ceased. Following World War I it started the production of some good British pictures, but they were Silent Films, and Sound came and revolutionized the Industry, leaving England with its many Silent motion pictures. When it again emerged, the British Government had a Quota-Brain-Wave, the result of which was an accumulation of Quickies, which were never marketed outside of Great Britain.

The Quota Era passed, along came War II. Surviving War II along came Conservation, and Dollar shortages, but the British picture survived. It forged into foreign markets, particularly into the long-coveted American market. At the height of its American market success, the British Labor Government introduced the 75% Ad Valorem Tax, upsetting the American market applecart, and while this Ad Valorem tax was still a

thorn in the flesh, the British Labor Government followed through with its 45% Quota legislation for features, plus over 25% for second features.

Pictures cannot be produced through Government Regulations, or under government direction and supervision, since governments are not producers and know very little about show business, or entertainment. Pictures produced under government control must fall into the category of propaganda films, and the propaganda must be flavored by the political opinions of the party which is the government.

Only in emergency conditions are propaganda films acceptable to patrons of motion picture theatres, otherwise patrons definitely and audibly object to propaganda films, particularly is this so in Democratic countries where picture patrons leave their politics at home when going to a movie.

If it is the purpose of the British Labor Government to fulfill its quota regulations through the production of a number of inexpensive films, what makes this government believe that the Quota films produced to-day, will be any better, or more acceptable to movie patrons than were those which were produced during 1920 and the years following?

Why did J. Arthur Rank spend millions of pounds in the production of British pictures to win a place for the British picture in the world markets, if the British Film Industry is now to invest, through government subsidies and legislation, millions of pounds for the production of quota pictures which will not be acceptable to the exhibitors in Great Britain, nor to their patrons, and which will destroy the prestige won by the British pictures, now in distribution in world markets?

—EDITOR.

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277 VICTORIA STREET

TORONTO

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

ONTARIO'S Central Canada Exhibition opens on Monday, August 23rd, and continues to and including Saturday of the same week. Always a headache for theatre managers, the lads are making an extra big effort to get some of the cream from the farmers of the surrounding countryside; their wives, sons and daughters, who are expected to jam the town for six days. But the trouble is most farms are located within easy distance of towns with movie shows of their own — some of which play pictures ahead of Ottawa — and when they come to the capital city they spend most of their time, and their money, at Landsdowne Park.

* * *

Bob Maynard, manager of the Palace Theatre, Hamilton, Ont., spent the week of August 9th, in his "old home town", and up the Gatineau. Bob, who was accompanied by his wife and three youngsters, was telling us of the great reception accorded to his brother Paul's motion picture venture, "Sins of the Fathers", which is playing an extended engagement at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto.

* * *

It is expected that the CBC Board of Directors will grant television licenses to broadcasters in Montreal and Toronto at its next meeting in Montreal on October 1st. According to K. R. Patrick, manager of the engineering products division of RCA-Victor, the establishment of television stations in Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Winnipeg and Vancouver would bring the new indoor entertainment to 4,000,000 Canadians. If the first two licenses are granted to Toronto and Montreal at the next meeting of the CBC Board of Directors, television receivers would be on the market within a year.

* * *

Graham McInnes, formerly with the National Film Board in an executive position and well-known in local show circles, has joined the Department of External Affairs. He will be in the information division.

* * *

Donn Stapleton, owner and operator of the Centre Theatre in partnership with Odeon, was host to members of the Ontario Motion Picture Theatres Association, (Eastern Division) at his summer home on the Upper Rideau River during the Sunday of August 15th. The wives and sweethearts of Ottawa and Hull managers were also along . . . and all reported having a grand time.

Bill Hartnett, chief projectionist at the Regent Theatre, and Bob Gellatly, of the National Film Board, are back from Cleveland, Ohio, where they attended the annual convention of the film operators and stage hands union. While in Cleveland, Bill had a chance to see his favorite ball club, the Cleveland Indians, play a couple of league games.

* * *

George M. Degnon, director of public relations for R-K-O-Radio Pictures in Eastern Canada, was a visitor during the mid-week of August 9th. George was in conference with manager Henry Marshall of the Regent Theatre in connection with the showings of "The Fugitive" and "The Miracle of the Bells". He also saw R-K-O-Radio's "I Remember Mama" get off to a fine start at the Capitol Theatre.

* * *

Frank Paul who, by the way, is a nephew of our old friend, Joe Paul, who originally opened the Elgin Theatre as manager, and is now in Western Ontario, was telling me that he had arranged with Ottawa Humane Society officials to co-operate in his forthcoming presentation of an animal picture at the Imperial.

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Maritime News

By A. L. FAIRWEATHER

THE dressed up Congorilla which advertised the film shown at the Mayfair Theatre, Saint John, caused quite a sensation when it paraded the city streets, some timorous person actually phoned the police station to say that a gorilla was loose. The "gorilla" was accompanied by a man dressed in tropical hunter's clothes. The feature was most successful. The double bill included "Borneo, Land of the Devil Beast" and was shown for three days.

Visitors in Saint John recently included Charles Staples of the Queen Theatre, St. Stephen, N.B.; Malcolm Walker of Sackville and Halifax, N.S.; Sammie Jacobs of Eagle-Lion office, Montreal, who was accompanied by his wife and family; J. McCalvy of the Tracadie Theatre, Tracadie, N.B.; Keith Buell of the Community Theatre at Murray Harbour, P.E.I.; Gordon Gaisley, manager of the New Paramount and Capitol Theatres at Campbellton, N.B., and T. J. O'Rourke of the Strand, Minto, N.B. who, with his family, had been enjoying a motor trip through Nova Scotia, going as far as Yarmouth.

* * *

Bill Guss, Calgary manager for M-G-M., and formerly on the staff of the Saint John office, paid a visit to his parents in Saint John and enjoyed meeting his old friends in the city.

* * *

Reverberations of the sensational showing of "The Fuller Brush Man", with A. C. Fuller, in person, attending, are still being heard. Mr. Fuller addressed the Rotary Club of Yarmouth, N.S. where he has a summer home. Sid Wyman, manager of the Community Theatre where the feature was shown, is a member of the Yarmouth Rotary Club.

* * *

Gordon Bridges, formerly on the staff of the Regent Theatre at Saint John, and now with General Theatre Supply Co. at Montreal, visited his former home while on vacation.

* * *

Ernest Hatfield, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Yarmouth, N.S., was written up in the Odeon Theatre News, one article telling of his community efforts to place the attraction of Yarmouth before strangers and of his invitation to all Odeon managers to visit the interesting and scenic seaport town. Another item was taken from a Yarmouth newspaper which described Ernest pacing up and down a station platform eager to grab a delayed feature and rush it to his theatre.

* * *

Doris Selick of the staff of M-G-M, Saint John, spent her vacation at New York City and in Connecticut.

RAY PRESENTS



IS it possible that the Divestiture Decree is a Restraint of Trade, and that one day the U.S. Judiciary may find out that its Ruling is as illegal as was the Legislation in connection with NRA? Let us here make a statement. The publisher of The Canadian Moving Picture Digest is not responsible for the ideas which Ray is about to Present, they are Ray's personal viewpoints and any similarity to any person, living or dead, deaf, dumb, blind, or half-dead, suspended twixt heaven and earth, materialized in a seance, dematerialized through the use of too much alcoholic imbibing, is purely coincidental. If there are any complaints, please make them to the writer, and not to the publisher, Ray Lewis.

More than a decade ago, I stated that the Performing Rights License for the collection of Performing Rights of musical compositions from theatres was illegal, and that such collections should be made from the Producers, and not from Exhibitors, who, in their rental of pictures, paid the Distributors of such pictures for the public exhibition of the pictures, with the full knowledge and consent of the alleged music copyright owners.

Col. John A. Cooper was, at that time, the president of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Association, in Canada. He will corroborate my present statement, since he and I had many discussions in connection with Performing Rights Licenses.

AFTER all these years, the U.S. Judiciary gives a ruling that Ascapi is illegal and that the Studios must pay for Performing Rights. I am not a member of the Legal Bar, but I believe that it is unnecessary to have legal training to analyze a situation which appears so transparent.

Today, I go on record as stating that the Divestiture Decree is an example of a Government committing an illegal Act in Restraint of Trade.

It is quite likely that the method employed by the Producer-Distributor-Exhibitor companies, in the operation of their business, has been a Restraint of Trade, and that these companies should be ordered to Cease and Desist, should be instructed to formulate policies of trading which are competitive and do not constitute a Combine.

If it is illegal for producer-distributors to acquire and operate theatres, it has taken the U.S. Judiciary a long time to discover this. Meanwhile, the U.S. Government has collected Taxes in many forms from such operation, and in its Licensing of such theatres for operation, it has indirectly condoned such operation, and has directly benefitted through such operation.

LET us look into the operations of Chain Stores. They produce, they own their own farmlands, they have production affiliations for supplies, they operate canning factories, they have distributing centres for their product and they operate retail stores. No Government Ruling has ordered such companies to Divest themselves of their shops, which grow larger yearly, despite the fact that the little butcher, or grocery shop may be a next door neighbor. There are many lines of product which one can only get in these chain shops, product which the independent grocery, or butcher shop has not available for its patrons. Incidentally, handling large quantities, the chain store sells a few cents cheaper than the independent. These chain store operators may sell to each other from their own producing and distributing facilities, yet no one labels them a Combine.

Let us pursue further the subject of Divestiture. A major company, under the Divestiture Ruling, sells its theatres to an Independent theatre operator, the latter who has no producer-distributor affiliations, but in order to protect himself on a supply of product, he finances an Independent Producer, who in turn agrees with the theatre owner, that the product so financed shall be first exhibited in the Independent theatre operator's theatres. But, since one producer cannot produce a sufficient number of pictures to supply even one theatre for a year, much less a circuit of theatres, our Independent finances other producers. Having played the product in his theatres, what becomes of the product, unless the producers, or the Independent theatre operator finances a distributing company? Eventually, the Independent operator becomes a major producer-distributor-exhibitor and what becomes of Divestiture?

MAY I suggest the following for consideration instead of Divestiture. A Theatre Circuit company, which is, also, a producer-distributor, shall be permitted the full use of his company's product for his own theatres, since its investment is in production and theatre operation. However, in the operation of exchanges, or distribution centres, his trading with other producer-distributor-exhibitor companies shall be limited, and no such company shall be permitted to contract for the product of companies of a similar combination of investments, more than to the extent of securing two other major products. This gives such companies three major products, which includes their own company's product.

If the major requires additional product, he shall buy the rest of the product which he requires in open competition with other Theatre operators, but only after the Independent theatre operators have secured first, an equal number of major companies' product, being three majors.

In respect to Independent theatre operators, they, also, shall be restricted from securing more than three major products for first, or second run theatres, and shall not, for the remaining product available, enter into competition with other Independent, or Circuit operators in his zone, or his town.

THEATRE operators, Major or Independent, may inquire from which two or three major products they shall be permitted to purchase their product, and the answer to this question is from two or three of the companies with which they have been doing business. If they have been doing business with all the majors, they must make a choice of two, the maximum should be three, and they shall not be permitted to select the top pictures from all the majors, they shall, if the necessity for product is there, purchase all the product which they require from the majors which they have selected.

This may be in conflict with the ruling in the U.S. concerning Block Booking, but the Block Booking Ruling should be eliminated, when the Divestiture Ruling is eliminated, in order to permit the producers to sell all of their product to the theatres with which they make their first deals. Without this provision, either the Major Circuits, or the Independents could buy up the Top Groups only, leaving the distributors with second and third groups with which to trade for their subsequent sales.

There can be no combine of Big Interests, or a monopoly, where major circuits, with producer-distributor affiliations, are restricted from dealing exclusively with each other.

(Continued on Page 8)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

WHILE it has become routine as an entertainment feature in the United States and the United Kingdom, it was not until Aug. 11th that television made its bow in a Canadian theatre when visual broadcasts from Buffalo, N.Y., were presented at the Odeon Danforth, for three days, as a "side-show" in the foyer.

The televised programs were presented through the courtesy of Danforth Radio Stores, the latter having installed a television receiver in the theatre for what may prove to be an epochal event. The demonstration did not form a part of the regular screen show but it had the effect of drawing people — Canadians — to the scene. Because of delaying action on the part of the Federal Department of Transport and the CBC visual radio has been held back in Canada.

* * *

The front of both the Rio and Broadway Theatres in downtown Toronto was emblazoned with blown-up stills and painted signs for the simultaneous playing of "Love Life of Hitler and Eva Braun" which depicted the intimate relationship of Adolph and his paramour. The three-day run resulted in a holdover.

* * *

Joseph Marks, Canadian General Manager of Selznick Releasing Organization, announces the appointment of Maurice Diamond as Sales Representative for the territory covered by the Winnipeg office. Cecil Black will supervise the sale of SRO releases in the Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg territories, making his headquarters in Vancouver, B.C.

* * *

Mickey Komar, Saint John branch manager; Grattan Kiely, Montreal branch manager; Archie Cohen, Montreal salesman, were in Toronto recently attending a Warners sales meeting, called by Haskell Masters, Canadian General Sales Manager. The meeting was presided over by Jules Lapidus, Warners' Eastern Division Manager.

* * *

Mrs. L. Stancer, widow of the former proprietor of the Ace on Danforth Avenue, has leased the Hudson Theatre in North Toronto. Mrs. Stancer, who started as a cashier at the College Playhouse, is planning on a new streamlined front for the Hudson as well as other improvements.

* * *

The Trades and Labor Council at London, Ont., has formally protested the closing down of Sunday amusements at lake resorts in Ontario, with special reference to Port Stanley.

The departure of Ben Cronk and his good wife to California for a year due to the illness of his wife means a real loss to the Toronto film colony in general and the Canadian Picture Pioneers in particular. Ben was not only the vice-president of the CPP but chairman of the membership committee and a member of the publicity committee. His sincerity and sympathetic attention will be greatly missed. Ben is a living link with the early film days in Canada. Best wishes of the entire industry go with him along with the hope of his wife's early return to health.

* * *

George Altman's "Mom and Dad" returned to the Toronto district with an engagement at the new Willow Theatre of the Premier circuit commencing Aug. 16th. Special exploitation was arranged by Mark Mehr, the manager of the Willow.

* * *

With the opening of the new Odeon Roxy Theatre, Owen Sound, Howard M. Thomas, Odeon City manager, promoted and produced an attractive eight page supplement for the Owen Sound Daily Sun-Times. Containing many congratulatory messages from leading merchants, the issue includes many stories and pictures of the new house. Resident manager of the Roxy is Dennis Davies, who was formerly at the Roxy Theatre, Brampton.

* * *

Mark Berman, who recently joined Independent Poster Exchange, has resigned to become booker in the Toronto office of the Selznick Releasing Organization. He was formerly a booker in the Montreal office of United Artists.

* * *

His Excellency, Most Rev. Alexandre Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa, has advised Roman Catholics to refrain from attending a performance of the French feature, "Children of Paradise", which has English sub-titles. The picture was banned on moral grounds by the Quebec government last year but has been approved in Ontario as adult entertainment.

* * *

After making a commendable showing in the Canadian Lawn Tennis Championships at Toronto, Mrs. Frank H. Fisher joined her husband, who is general manager of Eagle-Lion Films of Canada, in their annual vacation.

* * *

A special appearance of Patricia Roc, prominent English actress, is expected to be made in connection with the opening of the big new Odeon Theatre on Carlton Street, Toronto, early in September. She may also be a guest of the Canadian National Exhibition.

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ROY LESTER..... Montreal, Que.

Toronto headoffice of 20th Century-Theatres has decided to close the Victoria Theatre in Ottawa for an extensive remodelling job. The suburban house was acquired earlier this year from Donat Paquin of Hull, Que. A new feature will be an attractive candy bar.

* * *

Jim Hardiman, manager of the new Odeon Danforth Theatre, has left for England on the Aquitania, for a well-earned three weeks vacation. Since the opening, the new Danforth has been the exploitation house of Toronto, with Hardiman using many outstanding stunts and promotions to draw theatre-goers to his house.

* * *

Charlie Mavety sponsored a horse show for the Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund on Aug. 14th at his Circle M Ranch under the auspices of the Canadian Trail Riders Association of which he is the president.

* * *

Duncan Campbell, Alliance booker, resigned recently due to the sudden passing of his father. Family ties necessitate his continued residence in Hamilton. Irving Siegel has been appointed booker in his place.

* * *

Helen Allen, popular representative of the Toronto Telegram, returned to her movie-reviewing after giving staff coverage to the National Liberal Convention in Ottawa.

* * *

M-G-M's Technicolor extravaganza "Easter Parade", in its second week of the Canadian premiere engagement at Loew's Theatre, Toronto, brought the theatre its biggest opening day and opening week since the theatre opened in 1913, including increased prices and roadshow engagements, and is being held for an extended run.

* * *

After the robbery of the theatre at Strathroy, Ont., the police nabbed several youth who apparently had too much money. They were tossing 25c pieces into the water to encourage swimmers to dive for the coins.

Famous Players Control Ontario Drive-In Chain

Famous Players Canadian Corp. has purchased control of Skyway Drive-In Theatres Ltd. and now owns approximately 90% of the outstanding stock, according to a recent statement made by J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corp. The price is not disclosed.

Skyway Theatres was formed early in 1946, with H. B. Housser of the Toronto investment firm of H. B. Housser and Co. as president, Jack Kent Cooke, Toronto publisher and radio station owner as vice-president. Also on the board were Roy Thomson, Mr. Cooke's partner in publishing and radio enterprises, T. R. Harrison and Gordon K. Masters of Harrison and Co., R. M. Manley, managing director, of Ohio and H. W. Long of New York City.

Last September it was reported that Albert E. Silverwood, chairman of the board of Silverwood Dairies Ltd., had acquired control of Skyway Drive-In Theatres. Famous Players has purchased the stock owned by Mr. Silverwood, as well as stock owned by other individuals.

Three open air theatres are operated by the Skyway concern, understood to be the first to develop such enterprises in Canada. The theatres have a 26-week season and enable motorists to see a show while parked in their own cars.

The first Skyway theatre was opened at Stoney Creek, near Hamilton, in July, 1946, with a capacity of 900 cars charging an admission fee of 50 cents per adult, children free. Two others followed soon after, one at London and the other at Windsor, each with a capacity of 700 cars.

Wolfe Cohen President W-B International Corp.

Warner Bros. over the week-end announced the appointment of Wolfe Cohen to the presidency of Warner Bros. International Corp., succeeding the late Max Milder, who died in London two weeks ago. Until now, Mr. Cohen has been vice-president of Warner Bros. International.

Mr. Cohen has been in the motion picture industry since 1918, starting in Toronto. On the opening of Warner offices in Canada nationally, he took charge of the St. John Branch in 1925. Later he was transferred to Winnipeg, Man., as branch manager with supervision over Calgary, Alta., branch. In 1936, Cohen became Canadian district manager for Warner Bros. in charge of branches in Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver.

He was appointed vice-president of Vitagraph Ltd., in 1941. In 1944 he was made vice-president of Warner Bros. International.

Alexis Smith Visits Her Canadian Birthplace

Having completed her starring role in United States Pictures' "South of St. Louis", Alexis Smith left by air for a visit to her Canadian birth place, Penticton, B.C., for the first time since she was ten years old. While there she participated in the famed "Peach Festival", historic Western Canada event. She was joined later by her husband Craig Stevens.

"South of St. Louis", Technicolor drama to be released by Warner Bros., also stars Joel McCrea, Zachary Scott and Dorothy Malone.

NEW COMPTROLLER



CLEMENT E. WILLIAMS has joined Film Laboratories of Canada Limited, Audio Pictures Limited, and their various subsidiary companies, in the capacity of Comptroller and General Office Manager.

Mr. Williams was born in 1904 in Moosomin, Saskatchewan, and has been associated, for the past twenty-three years, with the Canadian Bank of Commerce in Winnipeg, New York and Toronto, in managerial capacities.

He assumed his new post on August 15th, 1948.

Many Celebrities Attend Paramount Sneak Preview

Last Wednesday night Paramount held a sneak preview of "A Foreign Affair", the Dietrich - Lund - Arthur-Brackett - Wilder picture. Ticket sale at the sneak preview was suspended right after the start of the picture as both the Tivoli and Eglinton Theatres were filled to capacity.

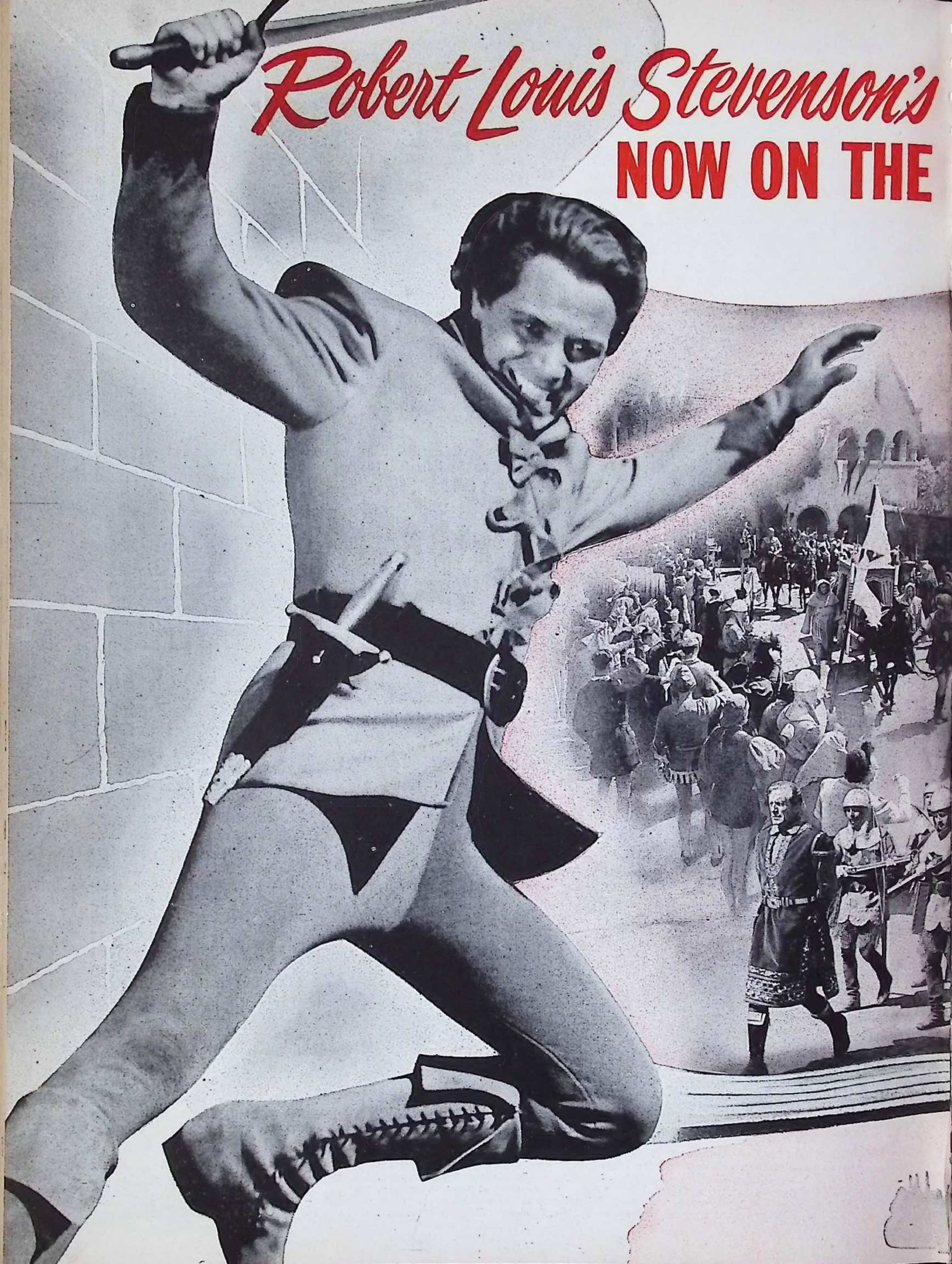
The Tivoli had some rather well-known people drop in including John Innes, O.B.E., acting Mayor; Claire Wallace, well known radio personality; Diddy Ferriman, better known as Miss Toronto; Mr. Russell, the American Consul General; and more well known radio personalities such as Lorne Greene, Harvey Dobbs, Byng Whitaker. The patrons of both theatres were given preview cards and they were asked, prior to the showing of the picture to put their comments on these cards. Roughly 2,000 cards were returned, 98% of which were extraordinarily complimentary to the picture.

At the Tivoli Theatre, a broadcast took place after the show and many comments on the picture were put over the air by CKEY Special Events Dept.



PEGGY LEE, star of Paramount's Technicolor Featurette, "Midnight Serenade", calls in on Paramount's Toronto Branch Office to help Jerry Cass do a little booking on her Short Subject. Miss Lee, whose voice is the current best-seller amongst the disc lovers, was in Toronto with her husband, Dave Barbour, on a personal appearance tour. Between Jerry Cass and Peggy, they did a mutually swell job on adding additional bookings to the already heavy list of theatres that have played "Midnight Serenade".

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AN EDWARD SMALL PRODUCTION



Winnipeg News

By J. J. CONKLIN

TOM PACEY, Odeon Theatre manager, has been awarded a citation by "Boxoffice", film industry trade paper, for his skill and originality in exploiting a motion picture. Mr. Pacey's ideas were given preference over hundreds by other theatre managers.

The movie for which Mr. Pacey was honored is "The October Man", which played at the Odeon Theatre some months back. The highlight of the exploitation campaign developed by Mr. Pacey was a co-operative tie-up with local merchants on a radio program on which listeners were given clues to identify a mysterious "October Man". The personality turned out to be Hon. J. S. McDiarmid, provincial minister of mines and natural resources.

Mr. Pacey has been informed by the Odeon organization that his promotion ideas have been adopted to publicise the movie wherever it is being shown in Canada.

Filming began August 9th of "Canadian Pacific", a cinecolor movie about construction of the C.P.R. through the mountains. Action will be in the Yoho National Park, Randolph Scott starring in the \$800,000 production.

Another "first run" house was added to the Winnipeg string of Famous Players theatres, Monday, when the new Gaiety, redecorated and modernized throughout, began to screen pictures for their first city showing.

More than \$40,000 has been spent in renovating the theatre. The air conditioning plant has been overhauled and the show now boasts the largest marquee in Winnipeg.

First film to be shown at the new Gaiety was "Green Grass of Wyoming".

The Manitoba Board of Moving Picture Censors has again sent out this notice to parents. All moving pictures shown in Manitoba are classified by the Manitoba Censor Board as follows: "Adult" means not suitable for juvenile entertainment. "General" means suitable for family entertainment. This classification is published to help you to select films which will provide entertainment for your children.

More than 140 people sat watching a moving picture in Mac's Theatre, 583 Ellice Avenue, Winnipeg, one night recently, unaware that the cashier on duty was being robbed of \$26 at gunpoint.

The hold-up man walked out into the lobby after seeing the show and shoved a gun into the ribs of Lucian Champagne, the manager, forcing him inside the ticket office. Police reported the bandit told Champagne: "This is no fooling, chum. This is a stick up. Open the door". Inside the ticket office were Mrs. Thora Davis, cashier, and Mrs. Ida Rodd, candy counter attendant.

As the gunman was taking the money from the office shelf, David Wolk, accountant for Western Theatres walked into the lobby. "I saw the man standing there with a gun in his hand. At first I thought it was just a gag, but when I saw that it was no joke, I hurried next door and phoned the police. The thief saw me coming in and going out but he made no attempt to stop me", said Mr. Wolk.

The gunman scooped up the bills, leaving the change which was in the office, pocketed the money, and walked out.

RAY PRESENTS

(Continued from Page 3)

I AM aware that there are competitive zones between majors, but with each having its own product, exclusively for its own theatres, such theatres have a degree of product and theatre insurance. Extended runs on pictures should help out tight situations, and in respect to extended runs, there should be no restrictions. A Major theatre, or Independent should be permitted to run a picture as long as he believes such a run is profitable, but there should be a proviso in connection with such extended runs, which may milk a picture for its second, or subsequent runs; an adjustment on percentage or rental of such a picture should be made for the subsequent runs.

A producer-distributor must have an outlet for his product; if stymied, he will eventually build such an outlet. A theatre owner must have product; if stymied, he will make producer-distributor affiliations, or become a producer-distributor. Necessity is still the mother of invention.

DIVESTITURE is not the solution of the Industry's problem in relation to trading, or the Government's solution of its problem in relation to Restraint of Trade. Our business is honey-combed with Restraint of Trade,

It has been a cool summer in Winnipeg and the moving picture houses have benefitted. At the Garrick, "Arch of Triumph" is in its second week. Red Skelton in the "Fuller Brush Man" is in its third week at the Uptown. The British picture "The Years Between", is having a big run at the Odeon. At the Capitol, Paulette Goddard in "The Ideal Husband" is attracting large numbers.

* * *

While Winnipeg slept during the early morning hours, the biggest crane in Manitoba was hoisting heavy machinery from Donald Street to the roof of the Capitol Theatre which is in the course of installing an ultra modern air conditioning plant.

The crane is owned by R. Litz and Sons, Winnipeg contractors, and its operation during the night necessitated the unrigging of telephone and signal lines along the east side of Donald Street between Portage and Ellice. That allowed some of the more massive air conditioning and refrigeration units to be raised from street level to the Capitol's roof where a great hole has been torn to admit the machinery.

Spectators lingered on the street despite the hour and goggled when the giant crane hoisted the multibladed centrifugal fan to the roof of the theatre.

Art Piercy, air conditioning engineer advising the firm of Fleming-Pediar Limited, explained that installation of refrigeration units and blowers in the theatre attic permits overhead distribution of cool filtered air taken from the floor level.

W. V. Novak, manager of the theatre, said he expected the new plant would be in full operation within 15 days.

which does not confine itself to the Major Defendants named. We find Restraint of Trade in the operations of Independent Exhibitors, who will buy up all the available product, change their shows daily, play even triple features, pay for unplayed pictures at the end of the year, in order to prevent another exhibitor, in their zone, or in their town, from securing product. Are such Independents more free of the onus designated as Restraint of Trade, than the Major Defendants named in the U.S. Government's Anti-Trust Action?

If the U.S. government divests the Majors of their theatres, restraining their Trade, in less than five years it will be obliged to again Divest, and will have a new crop of Defendants.



Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

IVAN ACKERY of the Orpheum Theatre is running a beauty contest on his stage this week in conjunction with the film "Dream Girl". The local "Queen of Curves" selection is in the hands of the Orpheum Theatre patrons who will do the pulchritude picking all week. There are 17 contestants for the title of Miss PNE. Winner will be in the Pacific National Exhibition grandstand show with Jimmy Durante, movie star, and she will also rate a four day Hollywood trip. Ballot boxes will be supervised by lawyer Rowe Holland, who is also chairman of the Vancouver Parks Board. Orpheum business is very good. * * *

Gaumont-Kalee manager Marvin Thoreau reports that G-K has installed two new G-K projectors and sound systems in the downtown Odeon Plaza. It is the first British equipment to be installed in a Vancouver theatre. Other houses will follow suit shortly. * * *

Eric Williams, formerly on the Strand Theatre staff here, who has been down in Hollywood at Warner Bros. Studio for the past five years, is in town on a three week holiday, and reports that his old boss, Stan Pooley, who managed the F-P Strand, here, is now manager of the Warner Bros. Hollywood theatre in the moving picture city. * * *

Jeannine Roy, the daughter of Lucy Roy, ASN cameraman who was killed in an airplane crash, is a new member of Columbia Films staff. New at the Orpheum is Betty Jeffers, and Douglas McKay is the new doorman at the F-P Dominion Theatre, here. * * *

A new \$50,000 modern theatre is being built at Chemainus on Vancouver Island by a company recently incorporated as Chemainus Theatre Ltd. Theatre will seat 412 and is expected to be in operation by late fall. This is the town's first 35 mm. moving picture house, the spot being formerly serviced by a 16 mm. circuit. Chemainus is between two Odeon situations, at Duncan and Ladysmith. * * *

Roy Clouston, Empire-Universal booker, here, has resigned. Roy was formerly with the Calgary Paramount exchange as salesman-booker. No successor has been appointed to date. * * *

Film row was shocked by the sudden death, in Seattle, of Nelson Galbraith, who was formerly on the staff of Warner Bros. here. Galbraith, for the past 11 years, has been in the Music Department at the 20th-Century-Fox Studio in Hollywood and was on his way to Vancouver for a vacation at the time of his passing. He was 44 years old.

Alexis Smith, Hollywood star, will return to her home town of Penticton to open the annual peach festival on August 18th. * * *

Lee and Gordon Brewerton, who operate three theatres in Southern Alberta with their families, spent a few days here and had a reunion with brother George, who operates the largest roller rink on the Pacific at Exhibition Park, Vancouver. The prairie lads left for home via the U-S route by car. Business is just fair in their towns, they said. * * *

The east-side State Theatre is doing healthy business with Artkino Russian films. The current week they are holding the Canadian premiere of "The Lucky Bride". Business is tops. * * *

Filming of the adventurous saga of the Canadian Pacific Railway's push through the Rocky Mountains is har-binger of several more Hollywood movies to be made in Western Canada, so says freelance Hollywood producer Nat Holt, who will gamble a "modest million" in bringing the story "Canadian Pacific" to the screen for 20th-Century-Fox release. Holt will film outdoor sequences for the "rugged" movie in two weeks of shooting around Calgary and Banff, before moving to B.C. to take many shots for the picture in the Fraser Valley and in the rocky gorges of the B.C. mountains. * * *

The F-P downtown Strand interrupted its film showings for a full week's showing, on stage, of "Oklahoma". Theatre was sold out for entire week and played an extra matinee. * * *

Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE

11th Week. "The Mating of Millie" (Col.), with Glenn Ford and Evelyn Keyes.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI

"A Foreign Affair" (Para.), with Jean Arthur, Marlene Dietrich and John Lund.

FADRLAWN-DANFORTH

2nd week. "The White Unicorn" (E-L), with Margaret Lockwood and Dennis Price.

IMPERIAL

2nd week. "Key Largo" (W-B), with Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall and Edward G. Robinson.

LOEW'S

2nd week. "Easter Parade" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with Judy Garland and Fred Astaire.

NORTOWN-VICTORIA

"Mickey" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Lois Butler and Bill Goodwin.

SHEA'S

"Melody Time" (Disney-R-K-O), Technicolor, with Roy Rogers and Dennis Day.

UPTOWN

3rd week. "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (U-I), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"On Our Merry Way" (U-A), with Paulette Goddard, Burgess Meredith and James Stewart.

IMPERIAL

"Fighting Father Dunne" (R-K-O), with Pat O'Brien. Also "My Dog Rusty" (Col.), with Ted Donaldson.

LOEW'S

"Give My Regards To Broadway" (Fox), Technicolor, with Dan Dailey.

PALACE

"B.F.'s Daughter" (M-G-M), with Barbara Stanwyck and Van Heflin.

PRINCESS

"Fury at Furnace Creek" (Fox), with Victor Mature and Coleen Gray. Also "Checkered Coat" (Fox), with Tom Conway and Noreen Nash.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL

"This Time For Keeps" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with Esther Williams.

MAYFAIR

"Abie's Irish Rose" (U-A), with Michael Chekhov and Joanne Dru. Also "Green For Danger" (E-L), with Sally Gray and Rosamund John.

STRAND

"The Man Within" (E-L), Technicolor, with Michael Redgrave and Joan Greenwood.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL

"Give My Regards To Broadway" (Fox), with Dan Dailey.

GAIETY

2nd week. "Green Grass of Wyoming" (Fox), Technicolor, with Peggy Cummins and Charles Coburn.

GARRICK

"Northwest Stampede" (Int'l), Cinecolor, with Joan Leslie and James Craig.

METROPOLITAN

"The Sign of the Ram" (Col.), with Susan Peters and Alexander Knox.

ODEON

"Ruthless" (Int'l), with Zachary Scott and Louis Hayward.

CALGARY

CAPITOL

"Hazard" (Para.), with Paulette Goddard and Macdonald Carey.

GRAND

"Frieda" (E-L), with David Farrar and Flora Robson.

PALACE

"My Girl Tisa" (W-B), with Lilli Palmer and Sam Wanamaker. Also "Big Punch" (W-B), with Wayne Morris.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL

"Berlin Express" (R-K-O), with Merle Oberon, Robert Ryan and Paul Lukas.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA

"Call Northside 777" (Fox), with James Stewart and Lee J. Cobb. Also "Meet Me At Dawn" (Fox), with William Eythe and Hazel Court.

ORPHEUM

"Dream Girl" (Para.), with Betty Hutton and Macdonald Carey.

PARADISE

"The Seventh Veil" (E-L), with James Mason and Ann Todd. Also "Madonna of the Seven Moons" (E-L), with Stewart Granger and Phyllis Calvert.

PLAZA

"The Black Arrow" (Col.), with Louis Hayward and Janet Blair.

STRAND

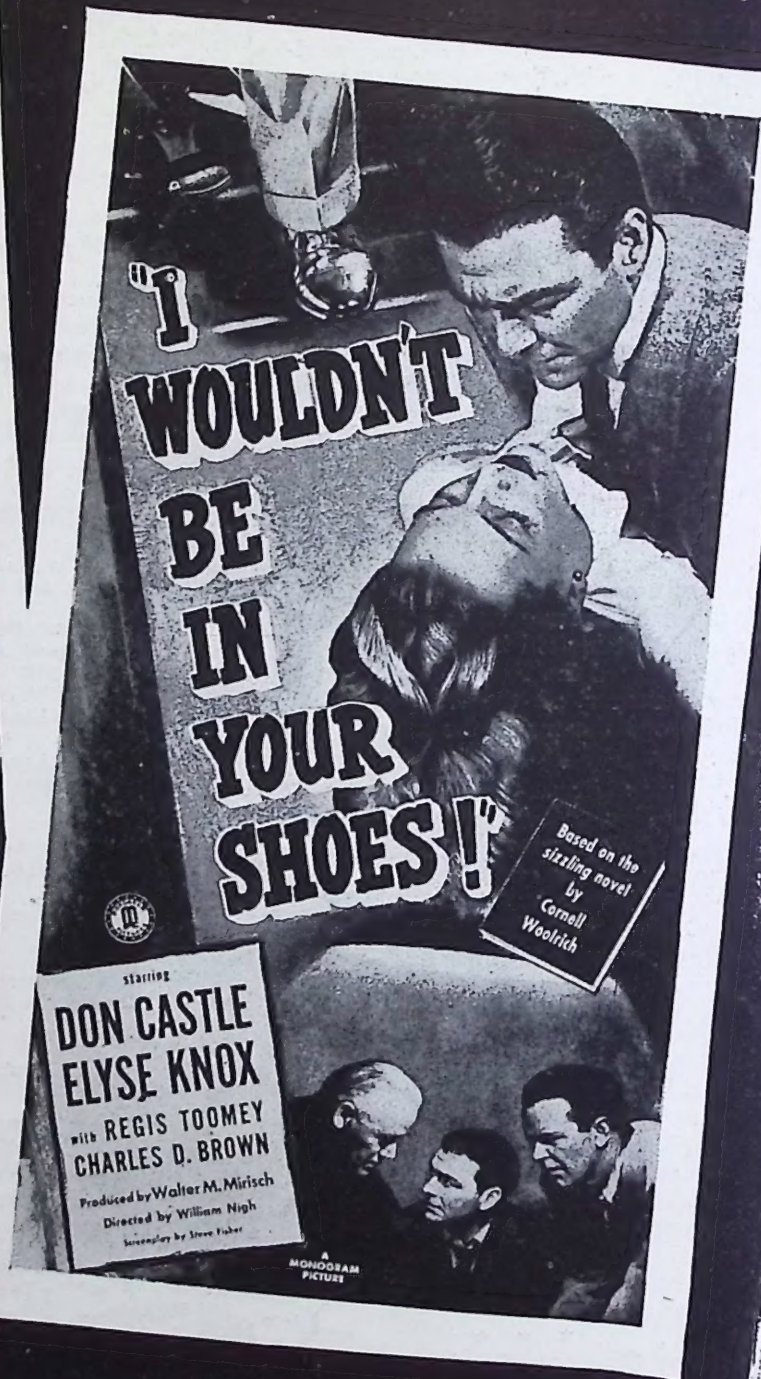
"Mine Own Executioner" (Fox), with Burgess Meredith and Kieron Moore.

VOGUE

"The Sign of the Ram" (Col.), with Susan Peters and Alexander Knox.



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